

TX, on unknown flowers. The slide label for a specimen from Hidalgo, Mexico, lists *Bidens*, *Eupatorium*, and *Salvia*. A specimen from Michoacán, Mexico was intercepted on grass at agricultural quarantine, San Ysidro, CA, in 1965.

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NOTE

Sialis vagans (Ross) (Megaloptera: Sialidae) and *Amphinemura nigritta* (Provancher) (Plecoptera: Nemouridae) Trapped by Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia* L.) (Ericaceae) Flowers

While sampling a small impoundment in the Frederick City Municipal Forest along Little Fishing Creek (Frederick Co., Maryland) on May 24, 1998, we observed mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia* L.) in full bloom around the pond. Closer examination of the floral clusters revealed large numbers of adult alderflies (Megaloptera: Sialidae). Some alderflies appeared to be stuck to the stems of the flowers by their tarsi; others were stuck to the corolla of the flowers by their wings. Although some of the specimens were dead, many were alive. As we removed several alderflies, we noted that the stalk, calyx, and corolla of the flowers were sticky to the touch.

We determined the number of floral clusters on two bushes (approximately 1.3 m in height) within 1–2 meters of the pond margin, and on a third bush along Little Fishing Creek exiting the pond. The two bushes along the margin of the pond had 25 and 97 floral clusters; the one along the stream had 18. We also counted the adult alderflies on each bush. Those along the pond margin contained 22 and 27 adult alderflies. Similar numbers of alderflies were found on other bushes along the pond margin. The bush along the stream had not trapped any alderflies; however, we did recover 10 stone-

flies (Plecoptera) from the floral clusters. Dr. Oliver S. Flint, Jr. (Department of Entomology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.) identified the alderflies as *Sialis vagans* (Ross) (Megaloptera: Sialidae). Ross (Ross, 1937, Bulletin of the Illinois National History Survey 21(3): 57–78) first described this species from specimens collected from lakes and rivers. Dr. Charles Nelson (Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Chattanooga, TN) determined the stoneflies to be *Amphinemura nigritta* (Provancher) (Plecoptera: Nemouridae).

Mountain laurel is a common shrub distributed from Maine to Mississippi and Alabama. The inflorescence consists of terminal convex flower clusters. Richard A. Jaynes (Jaynes, 1997, *Kalmia: Mountain Laurel and Related Species*, Timber Press) indicates that the stalk, calyx, and corolla of *K. latifolia* flowers are covered with glandular, sticky hairs. This sticky secretion is believed to prevent access of crawling insects to pollen and nectar.

The poisonous properties of mountain laurel sap are well documented (Jaynes, 1988, *Kalmia: The Laurel Book II*, Timber Press). The sap contains a group of related

grayanotoxins (Mancini and Edwards, 1979. *Journal of Natural Products* 42(5): 483–488), which occur in a number of species of *Kalmia* and other genera in the Ericaceae. Nonetheless, it is not clear whether the alderflies and stoneflies stuck to the flowers actually died of poisoning or desiccation.

How both insect species moved to the mountain laurel flowers is not known. *Sialis vagans* and *A. nigritta* in flight may have selected the mountain laurel bushes along the pond and stream margins to rest or mate. They may also have emerged at or near the pond and stream margins, crawled up the bushes to expand their wings, and

become stuck to the flowers as they climbed.

This novel observation may prove useful to collectors, as more taxa may be collected from mountain laurel flowers.

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NOTE

New Synonymies in Australia *Psix* Kozlov and Lê (Hymenoptera: Scelionidae: Telenominae)

Johnson and Masner (1985. *Systematic Entomology* 10: 33–58) revised the world species of the telenomine genus *Psix* Kozlov and Lê, recognizing 18 species. The genus is primarily found in the Old World tropics, with at least one probable accidental introduction into the New World. In fact, several species had been described before Kozlov and Lê (1976. *Zoologicheskii Zhurnal* 55: 143–145) first described the genus from Afghanistan. The varied placement of these early species reflected the confused taxonomy surrounding the large genera *Telenomus* Haliday and *Trissolcus* Ashmead. The work of Nixon (1935. *Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society of London* 83: 73–103, and subsequent papers) allowed us to recognize species of *Psix* among the Afrotropical and Oriental *Trissolcus* (then known as *Microphanurus* Kieffer). However, the Australian species

were a more difficult problem. Dodd, beginning in 1913, described 102 species of Telenominae, but because he had to rely solely upon the vague, insufficient, and sometimes inaccurate descriptions available at the time, it was difficult to equate his generic concepts with those that developed and were accepted in later years. Johnson and Masner (1985) were able to recognize that *Telenomus olympus* Dodd was, in fact, a species of *Psix* on the basis of a specimen identified by Dodd in the Australian National Insect Collection. Correct generic assignment of the bulk of his species, however, required first-hand examination of the remaining type material.

Johnson (1988. *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 90: 229–243) reported on the types of Australian species of telenomines described by Dodd and recognized that two further spe-